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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 9. SATURDAY, MAY 16TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, May 17th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park Mrs. Duval.
3 p.m.—Beckton Rd. Park Miss Paterson.
7 p.m.—**400 Old Ford Rd. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Drake, and others. Music at 7 p.m.**
Monday, May 18th, 8 p.m.—400 Old Ford Rd. —Speakers' Class: Miss S. Pankhurst and Miss Keith, A.F.L.
8 p.m.—319 East India Rd.—Speakers' Class: Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Priscilla Rd. Miss Smyth and Mr. A. Clarke.
8 p.m.—Freemason's Rd.—Miss Paterson and Mr. Jane.
8.30 p.m—Swiss Cottage Hackney—Mrs. Laski.
Tuesday, May 19th, 3 p.m.—400 Old Ford Rd. —Members' Meeting.
8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Mrs. Laski.
8 p.m.—Burdett Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m. Kelland Rd.—Mrs. Ives and Mr. Rettich.
8 p.m.—400 Old Ford Road—People's Army Drill.
Wednesday, May 20th, 8 p.m.—319 East India Rd.—Miss Bonwick.
8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall—Miss Boulton.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, May 21st, 3 p.m.—319 East India Rd.—Miss Paterson.
3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town —Mrs. Laski.
7 p.m.—Woodstock Rd.—Council Meeting —Mr. Mackinlay.
Friday, May 22nd, 8 p.m.—General Meeting of E.L.F. members at 400 Old Ford Rd.
8 p.m.—Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Mr. Jouning.

WOMEN'S MAY DAY in EAST LONDON.

SUNDAY, MAY 24th.

GREAT PROCESSION *from Beckton Road, Canning Town 3.15, East India Dock Gates 3.45, 400 Old Ford Road at 4.30 to*

VICTORIA PARK,

Many Societies are joining the E. L. F. S., among others: The Forward Cymric League; The United Suffragists; The Actresses' Franchise League; The Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage; and others

A MAYPOLE ON EVERY PLATFORM.

SPEAKERS:

SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Mr. George Lansbury, Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., Mr. John Scurr, Miss Marie Taylor, Miss Paterson, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Theresa Gough, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Mary Leigh, Miss Gwen Richard, Mrs. Scurr, Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, and others.

Come and protest against coercion!

HONOUR AMONG THIEVES.

In the House of Commons on Monday, May 11th, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil, Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he could inform the House why proceedings had been initiated against Mrs. Flora Drummond and Mrs. Dacre Fox for openly and deliberately advocating acts of militancy and violence at public meetings whilst no similar proceedings were contemptated, against those Privy Councillors, King's counsel, and Army officials who had been advocating a like policy in Ulster; and whether this was to be taken to mean that the advocacy of the enfranchisement of women was a greater offence against the State than the fostering of armed rebellion against the State in Ulster.

Mr. McKenna.—It would not be proper for me to discuss the circumstances of cases which are now *sub judice*. All I can say is that the hon. member is under a complete misapprehension if he supposes that the advocacy of the enfranchisement of women is an offence at all. It is not the advocacy of enfranchisement but the advocacy of arson and outrage which constitutes a criminal offence, and it is that which I am endeavouring to check and suppress when evidence is available on which legal proceedings can be taken.

COERCION !!!

GOVERNMENT FORCES US TO ARM, TO FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

The Government have returned again to their coercive methods of last year.

Those of us whom they seized and sentenced for our speeches last spring and summer, are still in the toils of the Cat and Mouse Act, and now the tyrannical Cabinet have swooped down upon Mrs. Drummond and Mrs. Dacre Fox, and to silence them have again revived the old Statute of Edward III. Last summer the Government tried to prevent our meetings in Hyde Park, and the prohibition still stands against us, although by strenuous fighting it has been partially broken down. All the same we of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes had to get a bogus men's society to take a platform for us in the Park on the 1st of May, and had it not been that vast crowds of people were ready to fight for our speakers, they would certainly have been cast out, and perhaps into prison, by the police. Last year the Government brought into Court, for printing the *Suffragette* newspaper, three printers, and then, finding that even cautious men like Mr. Ramsay Macdonald of the Labour Party, were opposed to this high handed action, they let the matter drop and the paper come out week by week as before.

On Wednesday, May 12th, Mr. Drew was again summoned for printing the *Suffragette* on January 2nd of this year, and accused of "thereby inciting members of the Women's Social and Political Union and others to commit malicious damage to property."

The case has been adjourned till next Tuesday. The result of it is a foregone conclusion—Mr. Drew will be convicted and cast into goal, like so many others—*unless public opinion can be aroused to force the Government to give way.* The matter is of great importance to every printer and publisher, but it is even more

(continued on page 3)

GETTING READY FOR ACTION.

Mr. Keir Hardie.—Is the advocacy of arson by women in England any more an offence against the law than the advocacy of armed rebellion in Ulster, and if not, why has no action been taken against the Ulster people?

Mr. McKenna.—I am unable to draw any parallel between the advocacy of arson and the advocacy of armed rebellion. My concern is for the maintenance of law in this kingdom.

Mr. Will Thorne.—Is it because you are afraid of tackling the other side? (Laughter and Opposition cheers.)

Mr. Asquith (answering questions in regard to the recent illegal "gun-running in Ulster) said:—The Government have decided not to take criminal proceedings against the persons concerned in the recent incidents referred to. Other steps are being taken, which I do not think it desirable for the present to make public. (Cheers and counter cheers.)

Mr. Keir Hardie suggested that the right hon. gentleman should advise the Home Secretary to take a similar course with reference to the women.

[We ask:—"When are 'Conversations' with the *women* to begin and terms of 'Peace with Honour' to be offered them?"]

MILITANT MEN.

Bonar Law.—"Ulster will fight." "We shall use any means, including force." "If Ulster is in earnest, if Ulster does resist by force, there are stronger influences than Parliamentary forces."

Sir Edward Carson.—"I intend to break every law that is possible." "Meet Home Rule by force." "Of course, drilling is illegal. Volunteers are illegal. The Government knows they are illegal, and the Government dare not interfere. Therefore, do not be afraid of illegalities!" "If they dare come and attack us the red blood will certainly flow."

Sir Edward Carson (privately overheard).—"How can I read the papers? In one corner the *Morning Post* praises me up to the skies—in another it utterly denounces Mrs. Pankhurst."

Lord Lansdowne.—"Did anyone suppose that these Ulster soldiers were intended for ornamental purposes?"

SUFFRAGETTE PRINTER SUMMONED.

Mr. Sidney Granville Drew, of the Victoria House Printing Company (Limited), Tudor Street, Blackfriars, was summoned before Sir John Dickinson at Bow street Police Court on Wednesday May 12th, for printing and publishing the *Suffragette*, dated January 2nd. last, thereby "inciting members of the Women's Social and Political Union and others to commit malicious damage to property." The notorious Mr. Bodkin prosecuted on behalf of the Government. He said: that "the militancy movement for securing votes for women was advocated in the *Suffragette*. Militancy included arson, the use of explosives and of corrosive acids, the breaking of windows, and the destruction of letter-boxes and letters, in order to create a condition of things which would coerce the Government of this country to introduce legislation for giving votes to women."

The issue of the *Suffragette* dated January 2nd. had only been taken as a sample of what was printed each week. In this particular issue, under the heading of "Review of the Week," it was announced: "The militant acts committed by women are now of a kind too serious to be permanently endured by any civilised country." Another passage in the same number was headed: 'No Peace for the Wicked.' The following headlines appeared over another article: 'Enormous Damage During 1913: Mansion Gutted at Bath: Serious Fire at Cheltenham: Valuable Yacht Destroyed: £40,000 Damage: Many Haystacks in Flames.' Visits of Ministers to various parts of the country were frequently followed by conflagrations in those districts In one paragraph in the paper it was stated that it was impossible to estimate the amount of damage which had been attributed to militant Suffragists during 1913; several newspapers had calculated that the value of the larger property destroyed was £510,150, but that figure, it was said, by no means represented the total cost of the women's campaign against property as many premises had not been included. If these figures were anything like correct, the time had arrived when some stern interference was required in order to put a stop to a state of things which was of a very grave character."

Evidence of a formal character was given, and the hearing was adjourned until Tuesday, May 19th.

NEARLY 90 YEARS' REPUTATION.

Neave's Food

ensures healthy happy children, stamina to invalids, and robust old age by its bone and body-building qualities. Specially recommended by "The Lancet," "British Medical Journal," Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D., Medical Officer of Health and Analyst for Dublin, etc., and other famous Authorities.

Used in Rearing the Royal Children of Russia, and thus tells of all its sterling worth to its excellent virtues, for instance: Mrs. KAIN, 5 Rockingham Road, Doncaster, writes:—

DR—ADVISED ME TO GIVE MY TWIN BOYS (6 SIX WEEKS OLD YOUR NEAVE'S FOOD. I have never lost a night's rest, and they have cut their teeth without any trouble. Your Food also does away with all need of medicine and castor oil."—Aug. 22, 1912.

"Hints about Baby" sent free. Sample for 2d. postage mentioning this publication to

JOSIAH R. NEAVE & CO., Fordingbridge, England.

OUR PAPER.

Though our paper is specially designed for East London, demands for it are coming in from everywhere. A Swedish Woman's Suffrage paper, *Rostratt for Kvinnor*, recently gave an account of it, and people write to us for copies of the paper from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Hungary, Germany and America, as well as from many English provincial towns.

Those of our readers who, during the past few weeks, have been receiving free weekly copies of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT should make arrangements to become subscribers to the paper before the free distribution is removed to other districts. These readers should be able to obtain the paper from their local newsagent, but if they have any trouble in doing so we should be greatly obliged if they would either mention the matter to the distributors, or at the office at 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

We are glad to state that the London and Suburban Publishing Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, have agreed to stock the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and supply local newsagents. The paper can also be obtained from Messrs. Horace Marshall & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

A PIANO WANTED.

A piano for our new hall is an absolute necessity. Will any friend present one to the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

FOR OUR FUNDS.

A friend is kindly having framed some pencil and water colour drawings, by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, which are to be sold for the funds of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

City Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

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Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 9.—Saturday, May 16th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE BUDGET.

This Year's Budget, like all the Budgets that ever have been, is insulting to married women, for Mr. Lloyd George, like his predecessors, refuses to recognize the fact that the Married Woman's Property Acts of 1870 and 1884 have given married women the right to earn, inherit and possess their own separate property.

Both in regard to abatement and the super tax the incomes of husband and wife are treated as one by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and husbands and wives are therefore compelled to pay more in proportion to their income than any other two persons living together and pooling their resources, whether they be friends, relatives, or a man and woman who are unmarried.

Whilst the husband and wife are treated by the Budget as one, the husband is recognized as *the* one, he alone is entitled to reclaim income tax or apply for a rebate. Thus the wife is compelled to disclose her income to her husband, whilst the husband need tell his wife nothing about his financial affairs, and if the husband should happen to be dishonest, as *even husbands* occasionally are, he can retain the reclaimed income tax or rebate that belongs to his wife and never pay it over to her at all.

It will be remembered that in 1912 Dr. Elizabeth Wilks refused to give to her husband a return of the income which she makes for herself by attending to sick people, and that Mr. Mark Wilks, who heartily concurred in his wife's refusal, was sent to prison for failing to make a return of her income and pay her tax. As a result of Mr. Wilks' imprisonment, Mr. Cassell, M.P moved an amendment to the 1913 Budget, providing that no husband should be sent to prison or have his goods sold up, for failure to pay the tax on his own and his wife's joint income, providing he had paid his own proportion.

The Government promised to deal with the matter, but Mr. Lloyd George put down an amendment which came to nothing, because the Chairman of the House declared it to be out of order. Mr. Cassell and others have raised the question again on the present Budget, but Mr. Lloyd George refuses to allow a married woman's income to be treated as her own, and though he still says he will do something to protect such husbands as Mr. Mark Wilks, he puts off the moment of action, to the Revenue Bill instead of seizing the natural opportunity provided by the Budget, and will probably break his promise in the end.

All this, of course, is a hearsay matter for the majority of our readers, who are never likely to have any practical experience, either of paying income tax, or of spending an income large enough to draw it from; but there are many proposals outlined in Mr. Lloyd George's Budget speech that will intimately affect the lives of working women and their children.

Grants in aid of local taxation are to be made, on condition that certain Government Bills on rating, valuation, education, housing, and so on are carried into law.

We hear much of the grants and especially of what the Budget is going to do for women and children. But it must be remembered that Mr. Lloyd George's speeches are always full of rosily glowing promises, which are infinitely bigger and brighter than the actual performance that follows. It was so with the Insurance Act, which, even yet, is praised and advertised for its maternity benefit. Yet, though maternity, which is a service to the State, and concerns the child as well as the mother to whom it brings pain and weakness, it is treated more shabbily than any other illness.

The Budget proposes to raise two hundred millions of money. The much vaunted grants in relief of local rates in 1915-16 are to amount to £13,085,400 in England and Wales, with a further grant of £3,900,000 for Education. The net increase on what is now contributed nationally, for these purposes in England and Wales will be £9,200,000, and £11,095,000 for the United Kingdom. There will also be additional grants of £1,250,000 for National Insurance, and £750,000 for Tuberculosis, Nursing and Pathological Laboratories.

These are gigantic sums of money, and far too huge for ordinary people to comprehend, but in trying to understand what can be done with them on a National scale, we must compare them with the entire £200,000,000 Budget and with the £46,000,000 that is allocated to the Navy alone.

The proposed new grants are to be distributed as follows:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Poor Relief	£3,615,000
Police	3,400,000
Public Health	3,200,000
Roads	2,480,000
Criminal Prosecutions	120,000
Diseases of Animals	71,300
Mental Deficiency	45,000
Reformatories and Industrial Schools	22,000
Shops Act	15,000
Vaccination	10,000
Employment of Children Act	7,500
Grants to Insurance Committees, and grants for establishing Medical Referees, training Nurses and setting up Laboratories	550,000
Education	2,750,000
Education (Health, etc.)	282,000
Grants for Secondary, Higher and Special Teaching	560,000
National Health Insurance in the United Kingdom	1,250,000

The grant of £282,000, which is named in the table: "Education, (health, etc.)" is to cover most of the highly vaunted provisions of the Budget proposals, for which women are told they should be especially grateful. This £282,000 is to provide grants for the medical inspection and treatment of school children, for physical training for them, for open-air schools, for dealing with tuberculosis amongst children, for helping local authorities to close schools without loss in times of epidemic, for special schools for crippled, deformed and feeble-minded children, and to aid the "schools for mothers," which have been started in various places. £282,000, though a big sum, is ridiculously inadequate for doing all these things, and this fact may be more clearly realized when it is noticed that the grant of £3,400,000 for the local police is only half of what the local authorities are spending on them.

But we are not merely concerned because the proposed grant of money set aside for these purposes is too small. We fear that the administration of the projected schemes may be tyrannous and hurtful to poor women. The "officials are not very polite to poor people," says Miss Florence Buchan, a working girl, (in another article) and the expression is all too mild.

The schools for feeble minded children, on which some of this £282,000 is to be spent, are those to which mentally defective and epileptic children over seven may be removed to live, without their parents consent, if a Government Bill now before Parliament becomes law. This measure, without a word to the working mothers of this country, is being rushed through the House.

Then there are the "schools for mothers." At present they are voluntary institutions and are doing, no doubt, very useful work. They are obliged to extend a courteous kindly welcome to the women now, or none would go near them. It may be that State schools for this sort of thing are needed, but with State money there goes, sooner or later, compulsion, and surely the women who may be eventually forced to attend them, have a right to a voice in deciding whether there shall be "schools for mothers," or, if there are, how they shall be managed and what they shall be like!

We hear much of teaching the working mothers how to bring up their children and how to keep their homes, but we doubt whether the vast majority of those who presume to give the working woman lessons, would be able to make ends meet at all on *her* housekeeping budget and surroundings, and could do it, not for a few weeks, but for the weary long run of a life.

The proposed grant of £1,250,000 for National Health Insurance has also many projects planned for it. Mr. Lloyd George says it is to be used for a system of health lectures; for medical referees, who will check malingering and give advice as consultants in cases of serious illness; to help deposite contributors; "to do something for certain cases of arrears through unemployment," and to give some aid to societies in which there is an unusual proportion of sickness through no fault in the management. Also to help in coping with the "appalling amount of sickness" amongst married women, which, Mr. Lloyd George says, was "quite unknown" before the Insurance Act

Mr. Lloyd George was very vague and guarded on the two latter points. He said that in dealing with them "the whole of the burden will not fall upon the State, the societies must also come to the rescue" and that he did not think it "desirable" that he should give even "the general character of the proposals." We fear that, in the result, health lectures and lecturers, and medical referees will absorb the lions share of the £1,250,000 and that all too little of it will be left to build on a firmer basis the health of the mothers of the race. If all that million and a quarter were spent for this purpose, it would be too little to do all that is needed. There is, alas, no suggestion, that as part of the Budget proposals, the maternity benefit is to be increased. Yet 46 millions are to be spent upon the Navy!

The Budget, like the Insurance Act, adds but another strong proof that women—and especially working women, are in urgent and ever growing need of Parliamentary representation.

Mr. Lloyd George in his Budget speech said:—

"It may be suggested that this is a specially inconvenient time to deal with this question, but every Session is an inconvenient time for dealing with an inconvenient question, and the recent history of dealing with this subject shows how dangerous it is to put off attempting to solve the problem, in order to wait until you know that the time will be easier and more comfortable to deal with it. . . . .

If we wait until the whole flood of political controversy rolls past, to deal with this subject, we may wait for ever, and that is why I think that this Session is no more inconvenient, even if it is no less inconvenient, than any other session. I can see in prospect for dealing with this particular problem. Delay means that the nation is suffering incalculable damage, because the services, which are essential to its life, and to its progress, are being starved and crippled."

All this must be said of the long delay in granting Votes for Women, but Mr. Lloyd George was referring to other things.

"There is no greater injury that can be inflicted on any country than to neglect the great problem of health, of training, and nurture of the young."

This is true, but how can the problem ever be properly dealt with until the wisdom and experience of women is called to aid in its solution?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Mr. McKENNA'S CRIMINAL (IN) JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BILL.

Attempts to defeat the proposal of Mr. McKenna's Criminal Justice Administration Bill to detain persons sentenced to no more than five days imprisonment in police court cells, instead of sending them to prison, have so far failed, an amendment by Mr. Wedgwood being defeated by 16 votes to 6. Yet even the Home Secretary admits that "the criticism passed upon some police court cells is just."

Police court cells, even when clean, which is not always the case, are small and frequently ill-lit. They contain nothing to sit or sleep on but a very narrow wooden bench built into the wall, which is often too short to lie full length upon. The sanitary accomodation, at the best, consists of a W. C. without a lid. It is often a part of the sleeping bench. That is to say, the sleeping bench and the seat of the W. C. are one. There is no washing accomodation in police court cells. Police court prisoners will remain both day and night in the cells, because there is nowhere else in the building for them to go. Why should people who have done so little that Magistrates can only find it in their hardened hearts to sentence them to five days imprisonment, be kept in such places? It would be much easier to serve ten or twenty days under more comfortable conditions!

A BILL TO TAKE DEFECTIVE CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS.

Day by day Parliament proceeds with legislation intimately affecting the lives of women, although women are still barred out from the rights of citizenship. The Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill has now reached the report stage in the House of Commons. Under this Bill, local education authorities will have the power the take away from their parents, children over 7 years of age, who are epileptics or are mentally defective, and send these children to institutions without the parents' consent.

Of course this will only be done in the case of working people. What do working women, who have had experience of Public Institutions for poor people, say to this?

ASQUITH AND THE PRESS.

Speaking at the 51st Anniversary Dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund on May 1st, Mr. Asquith asked: "Would the world be better or worse off if there were a complete suppression of the newspapers?" If the newspapers were suppressed the Suffragettes would be able to fight the Government on fairer terms than at present, and the Government would find themselves hard put to it to maintain their footing without their powerful apologists and constant trumpeters, the big Liberal Daily Newspapers.

When men were fighting for the vote, prior to 1832, newspapers, as Mr. Asquith pointed out, were more expensive (the usual price being 7d.), and therefore less easily obtained than to-day; but anyone who goes to the British Museum and looks through the newspaper files of the period, will see, at a glance, that most of the newspapers were then on the side of the Franchise Reformers; whilst the women find that all the big dailies, for party reasons, are either openly or covertly opposed to them to-day.

Having to fight against a Press boycott and Press hostility to our Cause has immeasurably added to our difficulties.

HOME RULE FOR IRISH WOMEN.

Mr. Asquith's announcement in the House of Commons on Tuesday, May 12th, that there will be no "Suggestion Stage" on the Home Rule Bill will be bitterly represented by those Irish women who have been using up all their energies in the effort to get Votes for Women amendments moved at that juncture.

Continued from page 1.

vital to reformers and freedom lovers, for what is "free speech?" Is it freedom merely to say what the Government does not disapprove, or even, if it does disapprove, does not care for enough to prevent? Is it freedom merely to say things that, if they are unpleasant, will bring in their train no result?

No, absolutely no! If the right of free speech were no more far reaching than that it would be worthless indeed! If the right of free speech is anything more than an empty phrase, it is the right to say what we believe true, and to give the advice to our hearers that we think good and potent, however disagreeable or revolutionary our beliefs and opinions may be.

If the beliefs that we preach are lacking in truth and righteousness, if the advice that we give is bad, those who pretend to trust the people must trust them, without resorting to coercion, to disregard what we say.

When women preach revolution to women, and women, and men too, respond to their call, those who really trust the heart and the mind of our people, will awake to the fact that there is grave and earnest reason for revolt. Indeed there *is* grave and urgent reason for revolt in this case, for without revolt and constant, constant fighting, the political and economic freedom of our women will not be won.

Last year the Government found that their attempts to crush the woman's movement by attacks on freedom of speech, press, and public meeting, had merely raised a hornet's nest about their ears. The women gave way not a single point in the struggle and their ranks grew and were strengthened by the fight. Women and men of all classes, and especially the workers, rushed into the breach to take up the Governments' challenge. George Lansbury and John Scurr, both workman's leaders, took their stand beside the most militant of the militants. Both of them risked, and one of them suffered imprisonment and starvation as the result. The East London Votes for Women movement burst into wonderful activity, vast meetings were held, attempts were made to rush the house of the Prime Minister, dozens of men and women were arrested—proud to take part in freedom's battle, and England was thrilled with sympathy for the fight.

Let coercion again find us more than ready. Let it nerve and arm us to new effort and new determination to resist the forces of the reactionary Government. Let us pledge ourselves to fight and fight to win! Surely our hearts should burn to stamp out the injustice that throws voteless women, painfully struggling for freedom for their sisters into prison, and leaves Sir Edward Carson and his fellows free to organise armed resistance to secure their ends.

Great demonstrations of popular indignation now are needed and we must go to all our meetings armed!

On Sunday, May 24th, we must flock in our thousands to Victoria Park, and, if coercion still is rampant we must go in a great procession to Parliament.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The *Woman's Journal*, the American Votes for Women paper, says:—"Feminism is the great discovery made recently and simultaneously by great numbers of women, that they belong to the human race, instead of being merely a Ladies' Aid Society. It gives as a young lawyer's definition:—'Feminism, a dream unknown to Coke or Lyttleton, seems to be a dangerous dogma endangering man's property-rights in woman,' and as an Englishman's definition:—'Feminism is a discovery that the sturdy British virtues are inherited by John Bull's daughters as well as by his sons.'"

WOMEN AND MEN JOIN THE PEOPLE'S ARMY,

And make ready to fight for Freedom.

DRILLING TUESDAYS at 8 p.m.

400 OLD FORD ROAD.

WOMEN'S KINGDOM AT EARL'S COURT.

By JESSIE LANSBURY.

Among all the beautiful Arts and Crafts shown at the Children's Welfare Exhibition last month, the sweated industries seem to bring us to the realities of life with a kind of shock. A woman stood there joining the uppers to the soles of boys boots—by working hard from 6.30 a.m. till 9 p.m. she can earn 1s. 8d., and then she has to pay 2½d. for materials. Opposite a woman sat making men's shirts for 6½d. per doz. She works ten or twelve hours a day to earn 5s. per week. Her baby sleeping beside her on a heap of clothes is only taken up to be fed.

In this part of the Exhibition there were also stalls with most beautiful lace, the makers being paid 1d. to 2d. an hour, and often growing blind at the work. Other women were there who earned 3s. and 4s. a week by sewing hooks and eyes on cards. All this and still you wonder why it is that women have no respect for the property of the men who pay such wages!

Fancy talking of woman's place being in the home, when she has to have the child lying on a pile of clothes in a stuffy room, and the noise of the machine dinning into its tiny ears all day long! What a farce it all is!

Passing by wonderful embroideries and weaving of the very finest, clever drawings and cartoons, and beautiful lace, made by fortunate people, not for a bare subsistence, but for love of the work, we come to some model-furnished rooms. One of these shows how a room can be furnished throughout, as the entire domain of a family for £5. Orange boxes and cocoanut matting play an important part in the scheme, which is supposed to show a poor woman how she can start housekeeping on this small sum. Such things are all very well for fortunate people to picnic with, and to play at economising as a joke, but we do not want to pretend to our working women friends that this kind of house is in any way suited to them.

A one-roomed house is too small for a family, and a house, even of one room, furnished according to the £5 model, is uncomfortable, gimcrack, and too tiresomely liable to come to pieces, for real steady use, beside being very ugly.

We do not want to reconcile working women to managing with such mean and paltry opportunities as furnishing on £5 can offer them, though we know that only too many of our friends have had to start on less. We do not want to help them to manage with so little. We want to spur them on to demand always the full value to the community of their labour, whether they be factory workers, domestic servants, teachers, mothers, or anything else.

WHAT A STRIKE MEANS TO THE WOMAN AT HOME

Three hundred men employed at Carter, Paterson's have been out on strike for more than a month. They are not receiving regular strike pay and are only getting 3s. 6d. or 4s. a week each.

Miss Florence Buchan, the *Woman's Dreadnought* representative, has visited some of these men. She writes:

I knocked at 135 St. Stephen's Road, Bow and a young woman answered the door with a baby in her arms. I asked if Mrs. Gregory lived there, and found that she was Mrs. Gregory herself. She asked me upstairs and took me into a room. It was very clean but on a second look round it was written all over with poverty. The husband and wife and child had to eat and sleep in the same room because they could not afford to pay more rent now he was out on strike. He was working at Carter, Paterson's and the men had struck for shorter hours, and to obtain regular instead of casual employment. They came out because they thought that their Unions had told them to, but next day they found this to be a mistake and the end of it is the employers have got other men to do their work for less money, and they will never take the strikers back. Mr. Gregory has been on strike for six weeks. He goes out early every morning to look for work, but comes home just the same as he went out. They are only a young married couple and have got one child seven months old. The wife has got to manage to pay 3s. a week for that one room, and to do that for the last five weeks has had to sell and pledge most of the furniture. Her husband had worked hard for that furniture to make a decent home for his wife, and it is very sad for her to have to part with it. But still she said something had got to be done for the sake of the child, it has had whooping cough since February and is very delicate. The mother is very anxious about it. It is a bottle baby, and it has not had the food it ought to have had these last weeks. Mrs. Gregory has been going to the Parish to get relief, but the officials are very indignant that she should need it through a strike. They are not very polite to poor people, and before they allow them anything they give them a form with all sorts of questions about their past history to fill up. They allow Mrs. Gregory one pint of milk a day for the baby, to be brought round by the milkman to whom they send the order. If the milkman forgets to bring it round, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory are not allowed to fetch it and the child has to go without. The parents get no relief from the Guardians. Mr. Gregory gets from 3s. to 5s. a week from the Trade Union, so that when the rent is paid there is often nothing left to buy food with. Mr. Gregory only earned 25s. a week before the strike so that there were no savings to fall back upon. The only offer the Parish makes is to send the man away to an unemployed relief works. Then a small sum would be doled out to the wife each week, and he would get 6d. pocket money. But even for this they will have to wait many months, because there are so many others waiting whose families are larger.

At 12 Beach Road, Mrs. Cornish, whose husband is also one of the Carter, Paterson strikers, was standing at the door. She was looking very unhappy and troubled. I spoke to her and asked how things were going with her. She said that she had five children, the eldest is 13, not old enough to earn any money, and the youngest who is four months old was born blind. The children came in asking for bread, but their mother had to send them out again without any food. It is very hard for her to see them hungry. She said that if it wasn't for the baby, she could perhaps earn 10s. a week at Clark, Nicholls and Coombs' Jam Factory, but she could not find anyone willing to look after the baby. The Parish are allowing her 5s. a week, and four pints of milk a week for the baby. The rent is 5s. and she dreads the landlord coming for she hasn't the money to pay him. The Parish are sending her husband away in a fortnight's time. Then they will send her 15s. a week for her and the five children and her husband will get 6d. a week for himself.

At 120 St. Stephen's Road, Mr. Hayward another striker, asked me in to see his wife who was feeding the six months old baby. They have six children. The eldest, a girl of 17, earns 10s. a week. The other children were playing out in the street, and Mrs. Hayward said it was a worry to her that their boots were only hanging to their feet. I asked her whether the children got free meals at school, and she said "no." The Parish allow the family a little tea, sugar and bread, but no milk for the baby. Mrs. Hayward has got to keep the place going. There is 5s. rent to pay and the only way that she has paid it for the last six weeks has been by pawning things out of the home. She has even pawned the eldest girl's clothes which she buys with her own earnings.

FLORENCE BUCHAN.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S PORTRAIT SLASHED.

When men were fighting for the 1832 Reform Act the Duke of Wellington was their most formidable opponent. He led the Lords with the throwing out of the Reform Bill of 1831 which resulted in the damaging by the people of an enormous amount of property and the breaking of the Duke's own windows. He declared to the last that he would resist all proposals of change and only gave way when he could not find enough supporters to form an anti-reform ministry. On Tuesday, May 12th, Miss Mary Ansell, an escaped prisoner under the Cat and Mouse Act, slashed with a hatchet, the Royal Academy portrait of the reactionary Duke's grandson who is an anti like his predecessor. The portrait had been painted by the late Sir Hubert Von Herkomer.

Miss Ansell was sent to prison for six months.

She said "I have done my deed deliberately and rejoice that I have not failed in my duty."

OTHER MILITANCY

A bomb was discovered on Sunday, May 10th at Spurgeon's Tabernacle, Newington Butts. It went off too soon, but a paper with the words: "put your religion into practice and see that women obtain their freedom" was left behind.

Many attacks on pillar boxes in Bradford, York, Scarborough and Rotherham were made last week.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Miss Lilian Lenton, who has been tortured by forcible feeding repeatedly, and on one occasion nearly lost her life, was caught at Birkenhead on May 4th, and charged on May 8th with attempted arson committed last June. She was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Many women protested in court. Miss Lenton, who had begun the hunger strike on remand, was released on May 12th, after a hunger and thirst strike of nine days. She is very ill.

The two unknown Suffragettes who are being forcibly fed in Ipswich gaol, although they have not yet been tried, are again remanded till May 15th. The newly created Bishop of Ipswich has promised to visit them. He says that forcible feeding is "awful."

Miss Housten, the Irish Suffragette, who went to prison on May 1st for breaking windows in College Green, Dublin, was on hunger strike till May 5th, when she was unconditionally released. The Cat and Mouse Act appears not be run in Ireland.

REVELATIONS OF OVERCROWDING.

At Leeds Assizes, Mr. and Mrs. Stares were charged with endeavouring to conceal the birth of the child of Edith Morris, the woman's daughter. The husband and wife had several young children, and the family lived in a house of but two small rooms. Edith Morris slept in the same room with her mother and step father. She was only 21, but had given birth to three children, the father of whom was her own step father. When the last child was born its body was placed in a box which was put into the dust-bin by its father. Probably the other two babies were disposed of in the same way. There was nothing to prove whether the baby was alive or dead when it was put into the box, for the box was destroyed with the rubbish—only the neighbours talked, and Mrs. Stares confessed to the police. She said she concealed the baby's birth to screen her daughter and for the sake of her other little children.

The man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the woman to two months.

These sentences are small as compared with those constantly being imposed for petty theft. Last week we heard of an old woman of 80 who had spent 60 years of her life in prison for stealing little things. A short time ago a man was sent to three years penal servitude for taking a few shillings from an automatic gas box. These are small sentences too as compared with what many a solitary destitute girl mother has been made to suffer for taking her baby's life within a few hours of its birth, when illness, fear and grief have made her unable to judge of what she has done. Many and many a poor girl has been condemned to death under such circumstances and though, in most cases, she has been eventually reprieved, she has heard the judge in his black cap pronoucce the awful death sentence, has been kept many days in the condemned cell, and in the prison chapel has been barred off from her fellows by the red curtain reserved for those who are to die. Even after being reprieved such girls are usually kept for from one to three years in prison.

This middle-aged husband and wife, who had smuggled away the three little babies, were both treated with much greater leniency than are such girls, but it is surely unfair to have given a full one-third of the punishment to the woman, for the man had done something very much worse than hiding the bodies—he had brought these poor little unwanted morsels of humanity into the world! He had seen, as the result of his relations with her, his young step daughter for months running the gauntlet of neighbours' gibes and all the shame that comes of such concealments. He had seen the young girl in the agony of a worse than fruitless childbirth, and his wife weighed down with misery and humiliation and the haunting fear of discovery. And he had brought all this about, not once, but three separate times. Certainly the wife had had the heaviest of her punishment before she went to prison! Just think what this miserable existence has been to her! Two month's imprisonment could add but little to her grief!

But what is the root cause of this awful happening?

The newspaper accounts are very bald and meagre, but perhaps we can picture for ourselves the inner history of these people's lives. The man, Harry Stares, had been in the Navy and had been discharged with a good character. Unfortunately the standard of good character in our Army and Navy does not demand that a man shall be honourable in his dealing with women and faithful and considerate to his wife. This man was almost certainly discharged from the Navy knowing no skilled trade, able only to apply for ill-paid labouring work and with character spoiled for ordinary life.

The people lived crowded together, because of their poverty, as no family ought to live. Their house had only two rooms. One of these rooms, of course contained the sink, cooking stove and whatever arrangement there may have been for washing clothes. It was evidently only a scullery, because most of the family were sleeping together in the other room. Do comfortable people realise what life means to people who live, as these did, in extremest poverty? The woman must prepare meals always with a scarcity of food and fuel. She has probably only an old pan or two that she has bought second hand on a stall, a bit of wood, perhaps, for a poker, and probably no other fire irons. She can scarcely afford to buy soap and brushes. The furniture in so inadequate that she has hardly a place in which to keep anything. Why even the amount of money that fortunate people spend on tacks and nails and screws and curtain rods, when they are moving, is lacking to women like Mrs. Stares all through the days of their housekeeping!

It was a revelation to me when a woman once asked me for an old hair brush that I was going to throw away and told me that she had never had one in her life, and that woman was more fortunately placed than poor Mrs. Stares seems to have been.

It is hard to judge poor people, whose home life has always lacked every elementary comfort of civilization, when they drift into forgetting the decencies of human life. And though we know that the vast majority of the poor are just as careful of morals as the rich, we must still, all of us, realize that Society is most to blame, for allowing its children to live in such miserably overcrowded conditions, when things like this take place.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WANTED.—Young Domestic Servant; three in family, including one child; Bow district.—Write to "Box 100," *Woman's Dreadnought*.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser:—MRS. IVES.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Everyone has been working hard for Self Denial by flower selling, paper selling, collecting, etc. Many thanks are due to the members who so kindly came forward with help and eatables, and who gave so willingly to make the birthday of Miss Pankhurst such a happy one.

We urgently want the names of more members who will help to distribute the *Dreadnoughts* in the regular districts, and to sell our paper in the Roman Road, on Fridays and Saturdays. Will all members please remember to tell their friends about the Sunday evenings in our splendid new hall, at 400 Old Ford Road? The first meeting was crowded, and we want to keep this up every week. Will members also remember the member's meetings at 400 Old Ford Road, on Monday afternoons, at 3 p.m. and Friday evenings at 8 p.m., and the Speaker's class on Monday nights?

Dreadnoughts sold for week ending May 8th—676.

Members' Distribution Districts:

Mrs. W. Lansbury, St. Stephen's Road District—500 copies.
Mrs. Burton, Ford Road District—500.
Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Moore, Turner's Road District—500.
Miss Boyce, Kenilworth Rd. District—500.
Mrs. Kelly, Usher Rd. District—400.
Mrs. McCheyne and Mrs. Knudson, Fairfield Rd. District—350.
Mrs. Weaver, Smeed Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Clarke, Parnell Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Carlisle, Tredegar Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Mantle, Wellington Rd. District—200
Miss Dobson and Miss Vernham, Cardigan Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Hope, Medway Rd. District—150.
Mrs. Wilson, Lichfield Rd. District—150.
Mrs. Pascoe, High St. District—100.
Mrs. Husted, White Post Lane District—200

Members who have sold over 50 copies—
Mrs. Moore 100

POPLAR.

Office .. ..319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.
Organiser: MISS MARY PATERSON.

All members thanked for Self Denial work, especially Mrs. Hicks for making and seliing jam tarts and ribbon favours; Mrs. Seager and Miss Dent, cakes; Miss Lagsding, jam; Miss Watts, Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. Lark and others, artificial flowers; Mrs. Organ, flyballs. Mrs. Unwin courageously sold flowers in the streets, and many other members collected money and sold papers.

Will members please remember that the last of Miss Bonwick's interesting and important series of lectures on sex hygiene will be given next Wednesday evening at the office.

207 *Dreadnoughts* sold during week ending May 8th.

Mrs. Sadd Brown bought and distributed 110 Dreadnoughts and sold 40 in Chrisp Street.

Distribution Districts:

1. Upper North Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helpers*—Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cressell, Mrs. Organ.—1,300.
2. Chrisp Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper*: Miss Edy—400.
3. Isle of Dogs. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helper*—Mrs. Neuss.—500.
4. High Street District. *Captain*: Mrs. Walker, 62 Grundy Street. Mrs. Walker and Miss Lloyd canvassed Burdett Road with the paper and distributed 300.
5. Mrs. Pert, 6 York Square, Stepney —200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec...MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Good meetings at Freemason's Road, and at Kelland Road on Tuesday afternoon. Thanks to Mrs. Millo for cake, Mrs. Nicholas for crochet d'oyleys, and Mrs. Lawrence for eggs to sell for Self Denial week. Thanks also to members who bought all the articles at the auction, and to members who have worked so hard with their Self Denial cards. A good meeting was held in Beckton Road Park on Sunday. 236 *Dreadnoughts* were sold during week ending May 8th.

DISTRIBUTION DISTRICTS.

Canning Town. District leaders—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Road; Miss Tate, 37 Tyas Road. Distributors—Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Pountney, Mrs. Hockham, Mrs. Hornblower, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Parker.

Plaistow. District leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Road; Miss Putt, 67 Wigston Road. Distributors—Mrs. Ward, Mrs. and Miss Lawrence.

Custom House. District leader—Miss Daisy Leggatt, 74 Chauntler Road. Distributors—Miss A. Dunbar and Miss Elsie Cox.

Tidal Basin. District leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent-road. Distributors—Misses A. and L. Kelsey.

Silvertown. District leader—Miss Grace Grimes, 27 Newland Street. Distributor—Miss F. Nicholas.

LIMEHOUSE.

Crowded meetings held weekly in the Deacon's Vestry, Congregational Church, Burdett Road, on Thursday afternoons at 2.30. Eight new members were made at this meeting last week. Good open-air meetings were held on Tuesday at the corner of Burdett Road and Coutts Road, on Wednesday in St. Dunstans Road, and on Friday at Piggott Street, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Bird having been canvassing with great success.

SOUTH HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG,
Cromwell House, Greenwood Rd., Dalston.

Splendid meeting at Swiss Cottage on Monday. Distributors and sellers of papers and canvassers wanted.

Papers sold, week ending 8th May—35.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

East London Men's Society for Woman Suffrage.

The above organisation, which is now in formation, will exist to push forward the demand for votes for women amongst the men of East London, and to help the East London Federation of the Suffragettes in their propaganda work.

It will carry on a regular educational campaign, will organise deputations to Public Representatives and when it does not receive satisfaction, will make itself as great a nuisance as possible, to that individual representative, and to the governing forces as a whole.

The constitution and rules have been framed on non-party lines. The organisers are working strenuously, and a great inaugural meeting will shortly be held, at which Miss S. Pankhurst and several well-known London male supporters will speak.

Applications for membership should be addressed to Mr. Eric W. Roberts, 6 Streatley Buildings, Mount Street, Bethnal Green.

Two advance meetings will be held to call public attention to the Society:

(1) Sunday, May 17th, Victoria Park at 11.30 a.m. Speakers: Mrs. Caroline Webb-Smithwick and Mr. Eric W. Roberts.
(2) Wednesday, May 20th, Campbell Rd., (Bow Rd), 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss P. L. Rickards, B.A., and Mr. E. Standish Smetherton.

REBELS' SOCIAL & POLITICAL UNION.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Bonarius,
89 Wyke Road, Bow.

Saturday, July 11th, is the last day for paying for the outing to Hastings on July 19th. Full particulars from members, or from Mr. W. Whiteleaf, 76 Jodrell Road, Bow, E. Price, including tea, 4s. 9d. Meetings arranged—East India Dock Gates, Thursday, May 21st, and Thursday, May 28th.

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THE REBELS' SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION.

On the 1st of September 1913, the Rebels' Social and Political Union was formed, and its object is—"Opposition to whatever Government is in power until all women and men are politically, socially and economically free." Having formed the Union we set to work to carry out its objects. At Hyde Park, Trafalgar Square, Bow and Bromley, Canning Town, Hackney and all other places where the women of East London were holding meetings and forming branches, in all cases and at all times, the members of the R.S.P.U. were in the forefront helping the women in their battle against the despotic and cowardly Government. I can say one of the most cowardly and despotic Governments of modern times.

We have also helped other organisations, notably the women and children of Dublin and Hoxton during the distress caused by the strike, and at the present time we are holding meetings on behalf of the wives and children of Carter Paterson's men.

It is necessary to form a Rebel Union (a People's Army) to resort to Militancy, in order to obtain political freedom for women. Remember, friends, that for over 50 years the cause of political freedom for women has been worked for peacefully. Times out of number have the women of this country been betrayed. Just the same as the rank and file of the men in the Labour Movement have been betrayed by their leaders, so have the women by the Government. Remember that Asquith told the women to give some sign whereby they would show that they wanted the Vote, and yet, now that they are doing so, he tortures them by forcible feeding and the Cat and Mouse Act. The editor of this paper has been seven times arrested under the Cat and Mouse Act for making a speech not half so violent as the speeches of Sir Edward Carson, whom the Government dare not touch. If it is right for Carson to arm the people of Ulster against the Government, then it is right for the people of England to arm themselves against the Government when they shoot down strikers, and it is right to arm ourselves for protection against the brutality of the police towards the women. Comrades, one of the first steps towards economic freedom is votes for all women and men. Remember, no Government that does not give equal political freedom for women and men can say that they represent the nation. Political, social and economic freedom for women means political, social and economic freedom for men—you cannot have the one without the other. Let us then join together—the women in the East London Federation of the Suffragettes and the men in the Rebels' Social and Political Union. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder, fighting the apathy of the people and the tyranny of the Government. Remember, comrades, that when we have the power of the people behind us, no Government, whoever they may be, will be able to withstand us. They will be forced to give way, and something will have been accomplished to bring about the political, social and economic freedom of all women and men, which we so much desire.

I remain, yours in freedom's cause,
RICHARD JANE.

FIRST MEETING IN OUR NEW HALL.

No Rent Advocated.

The first public meeting in the Suffragettes new hall at 400 Old Ford Road was held on Sunday evening May 10th. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst took the chair and was enthusiastically welcomed. Mr. George Lanbury advocated the "No vote, no rent" strike as the best means of winning the enfranchisement of women.

Mrs. Walker gave an interesting account of a day's canvassing in Limehouse.

Miss Gliksten and friends provided a delightful musical programme to open the meeting.

THE PAINTING OF OUR HALL.

Our men friends in Bow did splendid service in painting our large hall for us, giving one Saturday from early afternoon till very late at night to painting the walls, and another to painting the beams, and yet a third Saturday to painting the small hall. It was a most exhilarating experience to see a couple of dozen men mixing colour, painting the walls and sitting astride the beams, and other men and women friends carting big forms up on to the roof and staining them there. It was strange to the editor of the *Dreadnought* to be out on the roof with them, quite free under the open sky, in spite of the detectives in the street below. We wonder what Mr. McKenna would have thought had he been there to see.

It was pleasant, too, to hear so many busy people singing at their work. In the commercial factories and workshops they have the silent system. How much better it is to work without cramping restrictions and for love of a cause instead of for pay!

IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

Sunday meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in the East London Federation of the Suffragettes' New Hall at 400 Old Ford Road, on May 17th, June 7th, June 21st, and every alternate week afterwards. At these meetings there will be a musical programme during the first part of the evening and afterwards there will be speeches by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., Dr. Flora Murray, Mr. Mansell Moullin, Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mr. John Scurr, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Parsons, Miss Mary Paterson, and others.

On Monday evenings at 8 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, with Miss Keith of the Actresses Franchise League, will take a speaker's class which will be open to every member of the East London Federation.

On Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings the Bow and Bromley members will hold their branch meetings at 400 Old Ford Road.

On other afternoons it is hoped to arrange Mother's consultations at which women may obtain advice as to their own and their children's health from a medical woman.

On Tuesday evenings there will be drill for the People's Army at 400 Old Ford Road.

On Wednesday evenings, public meetings will continue to be held at Crowder's Hall.

On Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m., meetings are held in the Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Road, Limehouse.

On Thursday evenings, public meetings are held at the E. L. F. S. rooms, 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar, and at 124 Barking Road, Canning Town.

Mrs. Walker's speaker's class will continue on Mondays at 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar.

A BUSINESS GIRLS' CLUB.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

As a regular subscriber to our bright and helpful East London paper, may I say that Miss Conway's suggestion about organising a club for the business girl appealed to me, as a member of that class. It seems to me that social intercourse brings forth some very interesting and original ideas, which might be helpful to our Federation, and often to the funds, and which, otherwise, perhaps might never be formed, or else might never be divulged, on account of a nervous fear of strangers.

I do not think you would have much difficulty in procuring enough members willing to pay a subscription large enough to make the institution self-supporting.

Wishing all success to all your projects,
Yours, etc.,
RUTH FOSTER.

[*The Editor asks correspondents to make a point of giving their addresses, in order that she may communicate with them direct when necessary.*]

WOMAN DRESSES AS MAN TO GET GOOD WAGES.

The Royal Commission on the Civil Service have decided that it is impossible to pay women as much as men, and to let them compete for the examinations which lead to the most highly paid and responsible work, because they regard women as less efficient than men: but Cora Kerwineio, a girl of Spanish descent living in Milwaukee, U.S.A., has been proving that a woman can do a man's work in a business house without anyone suspecting her identity.

In 1904 Cora was living with a friend, Mamie White, in Cleveland, and the two girls were only able to earn miserably low wages. One day, when they were discussing their unhappy position, Cora declared that she would become a man. She dressed up in men's clothes, and she and her friend moved to Milwaukee, where she easily obtained work as a stock clerk in a well-known mercantile establishment. As Cora now obtained very good wages they lived very comfortably together, calling themselves husband and wife.

The story has come to light because Cora, who was now called Ralph, became very friendly with another girl, Dorothy Klenowski, and decided to "marry" her. According to a new Eugenic marriage law of the State of Wisconsin, Cora was obliged to obtain from a doctor a certificate that she was healthy enough to marry. This she succeeded in getting from Dr. W. J. Scollard, who had attended her for years, believing her to be a man. Before giving the certificate, Dr. Scollard took a specimen of blood from Cora's arm. Maimie White, who objected to the marriage, and had entreated Cora to return to her, at last disclosed the facts, and Cora was arrested for masquerading as a man.

Is she to be punished because she has profited by the knowledge that women are sweated because they are known to be women, but can obtain comparatively good wages if they are thought to be men?

A CHILD MOTHER.

Readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT will remember that in our issue of March 28th we published a letter from the brother of Minnie Scott, of Conisborough, aged 15, who was charged with the murder of her illegitimate child. The brother's letter stated that the girl had been assaulted by a man when she was alone in the house, her widowed mother being out at work. Minnie Scott has now been tried at the York assizes. The jury acquitted her of murder, but found her guilty of concealment of birth. The judge ordered that she should be committed for twelve months to the care of a lady whom he had appointed, unless, in the meantime, provisions of which he approved were made for her with her family at some place away from the scene of the past events.

When the case first came up the girl's mother and elder sister were censured, but further investigation has shown that neither they nor the girl victim herself, were the people upon whose shoulders the blame should be placed.

Fred Lyons, a collier, and the girl's brother-in-law, was charged with having assaulted her, but was found not guilty, in the absence of corroborative evidence. It is, of course, usually impossible to get corroborative evidence in these cases for, naturally, the assailant takes care to commit the offence when no one else is present. Women jurors are needed to deal with such cases.

TRADE UNIONS.

Representatives of the East London Federation of Suffragettes addressed the Canning Town branch of the N.U.R. on May 8th, and the Leyton branch of the Association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen on May 9th. Enthusiastic receptions were given the speakers at both places, and 82 DREADNOUGHTS were sold. At Leyton the men spontaneously took a collection amongst themselves, and handed the result (2s.) to the speakers, for the funds of the Federation.

SELF DENIAL WEEK

The result of the Self Denial Week collections will be announced next week. One evidence of the activity of members during the week is to be seen in the increased sale of DREADNOUGHTS by each of the branches. We hope that this increased circulation will be permanently maintained.

One of our members, Mrs. Savoy, who is a brush maker by trade, made two very good brushes, and sold them for the funds. She is willing to go on making brushes at cost price to be sold for the funds, at the ordinary retail price.

Mr. and Mrs. Sadd-Brown and their children lived on practically nothing but bread and cheese during Self Denial Week, and are giving the money that they have saved in this way to our Self Denial Fund. Many useful things have been made by members and sold for the fund.

THE SPEAKERS' CLASS.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Keith, of the Actresses' Franchise League, are holding a Speakers' Class on Monday evenings, at 400 Old Ford Road, at 8 p.m. Members of the East London Federation, from any of the branches, may join this class.

A friend wishes to sell an excellent tooth powder at 3d. a box, cost price, for the funds of the E.L.F.S.

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